

Half Million Dollar Mission Playhouse to Open This Month

The beautiful new \$600,000 playhouse built as the permanent home of John Steven McGroarty's Mission Play will open at San Gabriel some time during the latter part of February.

More than one thousand business and social leaders of Los Angeles and vicinity have given freely of their time and money to insure the future success of the Mission Play.

The new playhouse, a conspicuous achievement in architectural design, was planned by W. J. Dodd, of the well-known firm of Dodd and Richards. John Steven McGroarty, on account of his thor-

ough knowledge of old Spanish design and architecture, worked with the architects in the planning of the new building.

The site is seven acres. The site of the new playhouse is a seven-acre garden tract which was once a part of the cactus-walled compound of the Old San Gabriel Mission. Remaining in the tract are many objects of historic interest. One is the world-famous old San Gabriel Grapevine, the parent vine of all California grapes, planted during the 18th century. Then there is the quaint adobe house referred to in Helen Hunt Jackson's famous book as the

birthplace of Ramona. Later on there will be built on the grounds an Indian village, reproducing exactly the homes of people who inhabited this section of California at the time when white men first made their appearance here. Indians, descendants of the people who used to dominate this region will actually live in the village.

The Mission Play tells the story of the bringing and founding of civilization to the western shores of America. It tells how California began. The glamor and the romance of Old Spain, Mother of California, is portrayed in the Mission Play. Franciscan Monks, Spanish soldiers and sailors, Indians, picturesque adventurers, and beautiful Spanish singers and dancers all furnish thrills, pathos and romance to this tremendous drama.

Serra Dominates

The dominant figure of the Mission Play is Fray Junipero Serra

whose name is perhaps the greatest in California's history.

R. D. MacLean, internationally famous, classical character actor, will play the part again this year. Mr. MacLean, through his inspired portrayal of the character, has helped to lift the play to the pinnacle where it belongs.

The other leading roles of the play are taken by artists who have been found best suited to their parts, according to types and talent, after a country-wide search.

The play as a pageant is the personal pride of San Gabriel. Members of the Spanish Families of the mission town enact the minor roles year after year, sing the songs that their forefathers sang at the fiesta and dance the dances of yesteryear. These are features of the Mission Play which give to it absolute beauty and sincerity.

Children Featured

The children of the play are the most irresistible, dusky skinned, liquid eyed mites to be found under the sun. It is all very real to them. They live their parts instead of playing them. It is interesting to see them outside the playhouse when they meet their beloved Fray Serra. It is always "Padre Mio" or "Si Padre." The most envied character in the entire play is the tiny Paula, who presents Fray Serra with the bouquet of wild flowers in the second act.

The Mission Play, with its tremendous, universal appeal, with run year after year for the entertainment and instruction of future generations. Already, in the old Mission Playhouse, more than two millions of people from all parts of the world have paid admission to see John Steven McGroarty's Mission Play.

After refusing an outright offer of \$100,000 for the rights to his play, John Steven McGroarty signed over all of his rights without cost to the people of California. Such an attraction has the Mission Play become in California that its value, in a purely economic sense, has won the support of hard-headed business men. A non-profit corporation has been found to make secure the results and benefits of this marvelous production to California. The board of directors are: W. I. Hollingsworth, D. W. Fanning, G. L. Cochran, Samuel K. Ringo, E. L. Doherty, Henry Chandler, Benjamin F. Bledsoe, Joseph S. Scott, John W. Kemp, W. J. Dodd, H. O. Davis, Frank K. Miller, Milton Kaufman, Ernest G. Carter, John G. Mott, Arthur S. Bent, A. C. Balch, L. E. Behymer, Harold Janss, and Henry M. Robinson.

Non-Profit Plan

The corporation is so formed that no individual may profit from the play. The profits which will accrue on account of the production will be used to aid in restoring the old landmarks of the state. Religious services will not be conducted in places so restored.

So great is the sincerity with which people of means in Southern California have supported the Mission Play, that it has been arranged to sell out the entire opening night performance at \$100 per seat. This money is to be used to complete the furnishings of the new playhouse.

The appearance of the list of subscribers for seats to date is assurance that those present on the opening night of the Mission Play in its new home will be of California's most prominent families.

A rather unique luncheon was held on January 24, under the old San Gabriel Grapevine, where plans for the opening night were discussed. More than two hundred prominent society and club women of Los Angeles and Hollywood attended the luncheon. Entertainment was provided suitable to the occasion. Alice Gentle, internationally popular soprano sang several selections from Carmen. She was attired in appropriate Spanish costume. R. D. MacLean, whose renown as an actor of classical leading roles is world-wide, enacted a portion of the Mission Play in the role of Fray Junipero Serra. This will be the fourth year for Mr. MacLean in the leading role of the Mission Play. Norma Byington sang a few numbers which were very well received. Vivian Morehouse pleased those present with her delightful singing.

Seats at \$100

After discussing plans for the coming season, the ladies who attended the luncheon arranged for the reservation of about 200 seats

Compton Looks For New Record At Rabbit Show

Fur Exposition Dates Are Set for March 1 to 7.

COMPTON—Preparations are going forward rapidly at Compton for entertaining more than 150,000 visitors expected to attend the city's third annual Industrial and Fur Rabbit exposition, March 1 to 7.

At the same time, a convention will be held here by the leading rabbit breeders of the west, over which C. S. Gibson, secretary of the National Rabbit Breeders' Association, will preside.

While Gibson declares the rabbit display will go on record as being the largest ever held anywhere, this division of the exposition is being announced as considerably overshadowed in magnitude by both the industrial and amusement sections.

The Compton Chamber of Commerce plans to create an exposition which will adequately reflect the recent industrial growth between Los Angeles and the beach towns. The area to be represented is more than 650 square miles. Throughout, the exposition is planned on a non-profit-making basis without any element of promotion entering therein, the chamber has announced. The work of management, it is said, has been volunteered from start to finish by more than 700 public spirited Compton citizens, who are working under direction of Hubert Allen, oil tool manufacturer and general chairman of the special exposition committee.

In describing the rabbit exposition as the largest held up to date, Gibson said it will have 3000 entries of prize rabbits, as compared with the show held five years ago at The Hague, in Europe, which had 2200 and has long been considered the leader among the world's fur displays. Last year's Compton exposition, he said, was the largest staged in the United States, and this year's is assured of having 1200 more entries.

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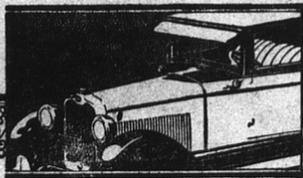
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Oakland Finds East and West Tastes Differ

Upholstering in Cars Varies for Different Sections Says Griffin.

That East is East and West is West is again evidenced in the variations in demand for upholstery materials in motor cars on the Pacific Coast and in the East. This time it is the change from Spanish leather to mohair in the upholstery of the Oakland landau coupe.

"The Oakland landau coupe was originally introduced in Spanish leather," says H. N. Griffin, Torrance, Oakland dealer. "We have had such a demand for the coupe in mohair instead of leather that we induced the factory to supply us a number of these cars so upholstered to satisfy our trade."

"The factory says that the use of leather was decided upon because the coupe there is used primarily for a business car and as such the men liked the leather both for its utilitarian advantage and the east with which it may be cleaned and also because they thought it was cooler in summer."

"Our observations are that the grade of mohair used in the Oakland will wear as long as leather, that it does not soil easily and that it is far cooler in hot weather than the leather seats."

"The coupe is a favorite both with men and women here and the women want mohair because it does not soil the light colored clothes that women in this part of the country are accustomed to

wear practically the year around. A gray fawn mohair of finest wool quality is used and the springs are deep and resilient affording a much more comfortable driving position than is possible when heavy Spanish leather is used for upholstery."

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